

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 289

Introduced by Assembly Members Leonard and Leach
(Coauthors: Senators Johannessen and Knight)

February 8, 1999

An act to amend ~~Sections 4453 and 4463~~ *Section 4454* of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 289, as amended, Leonard. Vehicle registration.

Existing law generally requires every owner of a vehicle to maintain the registration card with the vehicle for which it is issued, *except under certain circumstances*. ~~Existing law requires the registration card to contain upon its face, among other things, the name and residence or business address of the owner and the legal owner, if any.~~

~~This bill would authorize the owner of a vehicle to block out with a pen his or her residence or business address as shown on the face of the registration card. The bill would make related changes make another exception by not requiring the card to be maintained with the vehicle when the vehicle is left unattended.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~ *no*. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that~~

~~SECTION 1. Section 4454 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

~~4454. (a) Every owner, upon receipt of a registration card, shall maintain the same or a facsimile copy thereof with the vehicle for which issued.~~

~~(b) The provisions of this This section do does not apply when a registration card is necessarily removed from the vehicle for the purpose of application for renewal or transfer of registration, or when the vehicle is left unattended.~~

~~(c) Any violation of this section shall be cited in accordance with the provisions of Section 40610.~~

~~the requirement that every vehicle owner keep a registration card in his or her vehicle is a potential danger for those who are at risk of being stalked by predatory criminals. The requisite of keeping one's registration card, which includes such vital information as the name and address of the registered owner within the confines of the driver's compartment of the vehicle, poses a clear and present danger to those who are in jeopardy of being stalked. By placing this sensitive information in the automobile, it would be a simple exercise for a stalker or criminal to illegally enter a vehicle and obtain that data.~~

~~Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that, in order to safeguard the lives of persons who are at the risk of predatory criminals, that we allow individuals the option to block out with a pen their address information from the vehicle registration card.~~

~~SEC. 2. Section 4453 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

~~4453. (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the registration card shall contain upon its face, the date issued, the name and residence or business address of the owner and of the legal owner, if any, the registration number assigned to the vehicle, and a description of the vehicle as complete as that required in the application for registration of the vehicle.~~

1 ~~(2) The owner of a vehicle may block out with a pen~~
2 ~~his or her residence or business address as shown on the~~
3 ~~face of the registration card.~~

4 ~~(b) A motor vehicle of a type included in this~~
5 ~~subdivision shall be identified as such on the face of the~~
6 ~~registration card, whenever the department is able to~~
7 ~~ascertain that fact, at the time application is made for~~
8 ~~initial registration or transfer of ownership of the vehicle.~~

9 ~~(1) A motor vehicle rebuilt and restored to operation~~
10 ~~that was previously declared to be a total loss salvage~~
11 ~~vehicle because the cost of repairs exceeds the retail value~~
12 ~~of the vehicle.~~

13 ~~(2) A motor vehicle rebuilt and restored to operation~~
14 ~~that was previously reported to be dismantled pursuant~~
15 ~~to Section 11520.~~

16 ~~(3) A motor vehicle previously registered to a law~~
17 ~~enforcement agency and operated in law enforcement~~
18 ~~work.~~

19 ~~(4) A motor vehicle formerly operated as a taxicab.~~

20 ~~(5) A motor vehicle manufactured outside of the~~
21 ~~United States and not intended by the manufacturer for~~
22 ~~sale in the United States.~~

23 ~~(6) A park trailer, as described in subdivision (b) of~~
24 ~~Section 18010 of the Health and Safety Code, that, when~~
25 ~~moved upon the highway, is required to be moved under~~
26 ~~a permit pursuant to Section 35780.~~

27 ~~(7) A motor vehicle that has been reacquired under~~
28 ~~circumstances described in subdivision (c) of Section~~
29 ~~1793.23 of the Civil Code, a vehicle with out-of-state~~
30 ~~titling documents reflecting a warranty return, or a~~
31 ~~vehicle that has been identified by an agency of another~~
32 ~~state as requiring a warranty return title notation,~~
33 ~~pursuant to the laws of that state. The notation made on~~
34 ~~the face of the registration and pursuant to this~~
35 ~~subdivision shall state "Lemon Law Buyback."~~

36 ~~(e) The director may modify the form, arrangement,~~
37 ~~and information appearing on the face of the registration~~
38 ~~card and may provide for standardization and~~
39 ~~abbreviation of fictitious or firm names on the~~
40 ~~registration card whenever the director finds that the~~

1 efficiency of the department will be promoted by so
2 doing, except that general delivery or post office box
3 numbers shall not be permitted as the address of the
4 registered owner unless there is no other address.

5 SEC. 3. Section 4463 of the Vehicle Code is amended
6 to read:

7 4463. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of
8 subdivision (a) of Section 4453, every person who, with
9 intent to prejudice, damage, or defraud, commits any of
10 the following acts is guilty of a felony and upon conviction
11 thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the state
12 prison for 16 months, two or three years, or by
13 imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year:

14 (1) Alters, forges, counterfeits, or falsifies any
15 certificate of ownership, registration card, certificate,
16 license, license plate, device issued pursuant to Section
17 4853, special plate, or permit provided for by this code or
18 any comparable certificate of ownership, registration
19 card, certificate, license, license plate, device comparable
20 to that issued pursuant to Section 4853, special plate, or
21 permit provided for by any foreign jurisdiction, or alters,
22 forges, counterfeits, or falsifies any such document,
23 device, or plate with intent to represent it as issued by the
24 department, or alters, forges, counterfeits, or falsifies with
25 fraudulent intent any endorsement of transfer on a
26 certificate of ownership or other document evidencing
27 ownership, or with fraudulent intent displays or causes or
28 permits to be displayed or have in his or her possession
29 any blank, incomplete, canceled, suspended, revoked,
30 altered, forged, counterfeit, or false certificate of
31 ownership, registration card, certificate, license, license
32 plate, device issued pursuant to Section 4853, special
33 plate, or permit.

34 (2) Utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as
35 true and genuine, any false, altered, forged, or
36 counterfeited matter listed in subdivision (a) knowing it
37 to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited.

38 (b) Every person who, with intent to prejudice,
39 damage, or defraud, commits any of the following acts is
40 guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof

1 shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for six
2 months or by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars
3 (\$500) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by
4 both that fine and imprisonment, which penalty shall not
5 be suspended:

6 (1) Forges, counterfeits, or falsifies any disabled
7 person placard or any comparable placard relating to
8 parking privileges for disabled persons provided for by
9 any foreign jurisdiction, or forges, counterfeits, or falsifies
10 any disabled person placard with intent to represent it as
11 issued by the department.

12 (2) Passes, or attempts to pass, as true and genuine, any
13 false, forged, or counterfeit disabled person placard
14 knowing it to be false, forged, or counterfeited.

15 (3) Acquires, possesses, sells, or offers for sale a
16 genuine or counterfeit disabled person placard.

17 (e) Every person who, with fraudulent intent, displays
18 or causes or permits to be displayed any forged,
19 counterfeit, or false disabled person placard, is guilty of
20 a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be
21 punished by imprisonment in a county jail for six months
22 or by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or
23 more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that
24 fine and imprisonment, which penalty shall not be
25 suspended.

26 (d) No person shall lend any disabled person placard
27 issued to him or her, nor shall any person knowingly
28 permit its use by one not entitled to it. A disabled person
29 placard holder may permit another person to use the
30 placard for the purpose of transporting the disabled
31 person for whom the placard was issued. A violation of
32 this subdivision is a misdemeanor.

33 (e) For purposes of subdivision (b), (c), or (d),
34 “disabled person placard” means a placard issued
35 pursuant to Section 22511.55 or 22511.59.